RAJYA SABHA

Wednesday, the 20th December, 1995/ Agrahayana 29th 1917 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock, **Mr. Chairman** *in the Chair.*

SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA: Sir, what about constitution of a House Committee? *(Interruptions)* Sir, what happened to the notices ·ddy and Dr. Biplab r Rule 168? *(Interruptions)* Sir, they are pending since November..

SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE: Sir, the very second question in the List of Questions for Oral Answers is regarding the nuclear tests. It is a very important question. *(Interruptions)* It should be discussed before any other issue is taken up. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, the issue of supply of Cauveri water is under your consideration for discussion. It is a very important issue. *(Interruptions)*

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, what about a House Committee?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is better we discuss it further with the Government. So, I will adjourn the House for a little while. *(Interruptions)* should I adjourn it till 2' o clock *(Interruptions)* Or adjourn it till 4' o clock?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: For the whole day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I yield to the Opposition and adjourn the House till eleven o'clock tomorrow.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Acute shortage of post cards

*341. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of Post Cards on Post Office sale-counters especially in rural areas;

(b) whether this is largely attributable to the heavy demand for Post Cards from TV viewers and others responding to various Quiz-programmes on Doordarshan and AIR;

(c) if so, whether Government have considered the desirability of introducing a speical type of Post Cards, realistically prices, so as to avoid losses on Post-Cards, for responding to such Quiz-programmes; and

(d) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Shortage of Post Cards in a few pockets of the rural areas has come to notice from time to time.

(b) While there is large scale use of Post Cards by TV viewers and others responding to various quiz programmes on Doordarshan. AIR, etc; the shortage of Post Cards in some pockets of rural areas is due to occasional delay in distribution to such areas and occasional delay in supply of Post Cards by the security presses.

(c) and (d) The introduction of special type of Post Cards for quiz programmes and other comptetions can be done by amendment to Indian Post Office Act, 1898. Preliminary work in this direction has already been initiated.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

*342. SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention

has been drawn to the reported negotiations for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty amongst signatories to the NPT;

(b) if so, what progress has been made in these negotiations; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Since January 1994, negotiations are being held in the 38 member Conference on Disarmament (CD) in Geneva to conclude a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). These negotiations have made considerable progress though some issues have yet to be resolved. Indira is actively participating in the on-going negotiations. It is expected that a CTBT would be concluded in 1996.

Delay in installation of telephone connections

*343. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about the inordinate delay in installation and commissioning of new telephone connections even after issue of an OB or work order in Delhi Telephones;

(b) whether it is a fact that even after the telephone has been installed, it takes weeks before dial-tone is available and a number is allotted;

(c) what is the normal period prescribed for installation and commissioning of a telephone after issue of OB;

(d) what is the total number of OBs pending in Delhi Telephones as on 31st October, 1995; and

(e) what specific action is proposed to remedy this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATION (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Faulty traffic light signals in Delhi

*344. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2416 given in the Rajya Sabha on 9th March, 1994 and state:

(a) the details of the 17 places in Delhi where the electronic signals are out of order;

(b) the number of additional places in respect of which the complaints of faulty traffic signals are in the knowledge of the Traffic Police/Keltron;

(c) what are the reasons that despite daily checks by Zonal Officers, traffic lights at Janpath, Connaught Place, Barakhamba Road, Ranjit Singh Marg, Humayun Road, Golf Links, Ashram Chowk and T-Point near Bhogal on Mathura Road continue to be faulty for months together; and

(d) the action Government have so far taken to redress these complaints?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): (a) The details alongwith present status of the seventeen places where the traffic signals were not fully operational in 1994 is given in the statement *(See below)*.

(b) On 14.12.1995, seven signals were found to be faulty. However, this number varies from time to time as some of the signals may suddenly stop working due to electrical or mechanical failure or due to damage caused by road accidents.

(c) Traffic lights at Janpath, Rajiv Chowk, Barakhamba Raod, Ranjit Singh Marg, Humayun Road, Golf Links, Ashram Chowk and T-Point near Bhogal on Mathura Road are all functional. Whenever they go out of order the defects are rectified as soon as possible.